



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
333 SW 1st Avenue, P.O. Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208



Bureau of Land Management
333 SW 1st Avenue, P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

March 2003

***Draft Supplemental
Environmental Impact Statement
Clarification of Language in the
1994 Record of Decision
for the Northwest Forest Plan;
National Forests and
Bureau of Land Management Districts
Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl***



Western Oregon and Washington; and Northwestern California

File Code: 2630(FS) / 1736 PFP(BLM)(OR935)

Date: March 2003

**Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
For Clarification of Language in the 1994 Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan; National
Forests and Bureau of Land Management Districts Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl**

Dear Reviewer:

The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management propose to amend selected portions of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (part of the Northwest Forest Plan) to clarify guidance intended to protect and restore watersheds. This amendment is needed because projects intended to achieve Northwest Forest Plan goals have been delayed or stopped due to misapplication of certain passages in the Aquatic Conservation Strategy.

Two alternatives are considered in this Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS), No Action and Proposed Action. No Action would not change existing language within the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The Proposed Action would make limited changes to clarify how the agencies are to design projects to follow the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The Proposed Action is the Preferred Alternative.

This DSEIS supplements the Northwest Forest Plan Final SEIS. It is not intended to replace or reconsider the plan as a whole, but focuses on specific passages within the Aquatic Conservation Strategy.

The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are soliciting comments on the DSEIS. Comments should be specific and address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3). Comments will be accepted via mail, fax and email (see SDEIS abstract for addresses).

All written and electronic comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review and may be published as part of the Final EIS. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review, or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety. Anonymous comments are accepted.

For more information on the SEIS, contact Joyce Casey at 503-326-2430 or jcasey01@fs.fed.us. For copies of the Northwest Forest Plan Record of Decision contact, Dick Carkin, USDA Forest Service, at 503-808-2267 or dcarkin@fs.fed.us

Sincerely,

/s/ Linda Goodman

LINDA GOODMAN
Regional Forester, Region 6
Forest Service

/s/ Elaine M. Brong

ELAINE M. BRONG
State Director, Oregon/Washington
Bureau of Land Management

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
For Clarification of Language in the 1994 Record of Decision for the
Northwest Forest Plan; National Forests and Bureau of Land
Management Districts Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl
Western Oregon and Washington; and Northwestern California

Lead Agencies: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Responsible Officials: Ann Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture
Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior

For More Information: Joyce Casey, Team Leader
503-326-2430 jcasey01@fs.fed.us
Website Address: <http://www.reo.gov/acs/>

Abstract: The Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior propose limited changes to language within the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, part of the Northwest Forest Plan. Projects needed to achieve Northwest Forest Plan goals have been delayed or stopped due to misapplication of certain passages in the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The Secretaries are responding to the underlying need to follow Northwest Forest Plan principles and achieve its goals. Two alternatives are considered in this Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, No Action and Proposed Action. No Action would not change existing language within the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The Proposed Action would make limited changes to clarify how the agencies should design projects to follow the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The Proposed Action is the Preferred Alternative.

Send Comments to: ACS EIS
P.O. Box 221090
Salt Lake City, UT 84122-1090
Fax: (801) 517-1014 *Please address fax to ACS EIS*
Email: acs_comments@fs.fed.us

Comments must be postmarked by July 10, 2003.

Reviewers should provide their comments during the DEIS review period so that the agencies may respond to all comments at one time and to use information acquired in the preparation of the final environmental impact statement, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision-making process. Reviewers have an obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewers' position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. *City of Angoon v. Hodel* (9th Circuit, 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be specific and should address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).

Notice

Readers should note that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior are the responsible officials for this proposed action. Therefore, no administrative review (“appeal”) through the Forest Service will be available on the Record of Decision under 36 CFR 217, and no administrative review (“protest”) through the Bureau of Land Management will be available on the Record of Decision under 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Because there is no administrative review of the decision, the Record of Decision will not be signed until 30 days after the Notice of Availability for the Final SEIS appears in the Federal Register (see 40 CFR 1506.10(b)).

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